

THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL
INTERFAITH RELATIONS AND THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER 2013
Survey Questions and Responses

	Members	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Number of survey invitations sent	501	874	1,075
Number of surveys completed	291	532	645‡
Response rate	58%	60%	60%
‡ 453 pastors; 192 specialized ministers			

For the purposes of this survey, we are using the following definitions. Please refer to these definitions as you complete the survey. To help you remember which terms are defined here, they will be italicized throughout the survey:

Other faith traditions: faith traditions *outside of* the world's Christian churches and traditions

Interfaith relations: Christians in dialogue with and/or engaging in activities with persons, houses of worship, and/or governing bodies from faith traditions *other than* Christianity, to foster understanding and cooperation

Local community: the neighborhood (if in a large city), small city, town, or area (if rural) near or surrounding your congregation

Proximity to Other Faith Traditions	Members	Ruling Elders	Pastors	Specialized Ministers
Q1. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following <i>other faith traditions</i> have religious meetings in your <i>local community</i> ? (Please mark all that apply.)				
	◆	◆	◆	◆
Buddhist	27%	27%	38%	62%
Hindu	24%	20%	30%	47%
Jewish.....	69%	60%	64%	84%
Muslim.....	46%	44%	54%	74%
Sikh.....	13%	11%	19%	31%
<i>The following are coded from written responses:</i>				
Pagan	1%	1%	2%	6%
Mormon/LDS	2%	2%	7%	7%
Jehovah's Witness	1%	1%	3%	3%
Unitarian Universalist.....	1%	1%	4%	5%
Baha'i	1%	2%	7%	8%
Native American spirituality/Animist	—	*	2%	4%
New Age/New Thought.....	—	1%	1%	4%
Agnostic/Atheist/Humanist	—	*	*	4%
New religious movement.....	*	*	1%	—
Other world religion	—	—	—	3%
<i>Another faith tradition (besides Christianity) not listed above (please specify):</i>	1%	1%	1%	1%
Only Christians have religious meetings in my <i>local community</i>	25%	32%	27%	8%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

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— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

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Q2. Do you have one or more friends, acquaintances, or family members from *another faith tradition*?

Yes	76%	69%	76%	90%
No → <i>Skip to Q3</i>	24%	31%	24%	10%

Q2a. *If yes*, from which of these *other faith traditions* are these friends, acquaintances, or family members?
(Please mark **all** that apply.)

	n=220	n=366	n=342	n=173
	◆	◆	◆	◆
Buddhist	19%	24%	36%	54%
Hindu	23%	20%	21%	38%
Jewish.....	91%	93%	90%	92%
Muslim.....	33%	38%	48%	60%
Sikh	8%	6%	8%	15%
<i>The following are coded from written responses:</i>				
Pagan	1%	1%	2%	5%
Mormon/LDS	1%	2%	6%	5%
Jehovah's Witness	—	—	1%	—
Unitarian Universalist.....	1%	1%	3%	6%
Baha'i	—	3%	4%	4%
Native American spirituality/Animist	1%	1%	1%	5%
New Age/New Thought.....	—	1%	1%	3%
Agnostic/Atheist/Humanist	1%	1%	1%	4%
New religious movement.....	1%	—	1%	1%
Other world religion	—	*	*	2%
<i>Another faith tradition besides Christianity</i> <i>(please specify):</i>	1%	*	*	2%

Interest in Learning about Other Faith Traditions

If you are not currently involved in a congregation, please answer Q3-5 based on how you would feel if you were involved in a congregation.

Q3. If your congregation were to hold an educational program to explain the beliefs and practices of *other faith traditions*, how interested would you be in attending?

Very interested	28%	26%	38%	39%
Interested.....	32%	33%	32%	32%
Somewhat interested	24%	25%	20%	17%
Not very interested.....	13%	12%	6%	9%
Not at all interested	3%	4%	3%	3%

Q4. If your congregation were to host a fellowship meal or community worship/prayer service and invite members from a nearby *synagogue*, how interested would you be in attending such a function?

Very interested	30%	32%	47%	47%
Interested.....	35%	34%	30%	30%
Somewhat interested	18%	23%	16%	14%
Not very interested.....	14%	10%	4%	6%
Not at all interested	3%	2%	3%	3%

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	Members	Ruling Elders	Pastors	Specialized Ministers
Q5. If your congregation were to host a fellowship meal or community worship/prayer service and invite members from a nearby <i>mosque</i> , how interested would you be in attending such a function?				
Very interested.....	21%	26%	42%	47%
Interested.....	30%	28%	29%	27%
Somewhat interested.....	20%	20%	14%	14%
Not very interested.....	20%	19%	8%	8%
Not at all interested.....	9%	7%	7%	4%

Interaction with Other Faith Traditions

Q6. Within the past *two years*, have you: (*Please mark either “yes” or “no” for each item.*)

Attended an educational event or class to learn about one or more *other faith traditions*?

Yes.....	25%	26%	49%	51%
No.....	75%	74%	51%	49%

Attended an *interfaith* fellowship event (such as a social dinner)?

Yes.....	16%	22%	41%	44%
No.....	84%	78%	59%	56%

Attended an *interfaith* worship event, prayer service, or vigil?

Yes.....	17%	21%	38%	43%
No.....	83%	79%	62%	57%

Been an active member of an *interfaith* organization?

Yes.....	3%	6%	25%	23%
No.....	97%	94%	75%	77%

Heard a speaker or speakers from one or more *other faith traditions*?

Yes.....	33%	38%	62%	69%
No.....	67%	62%	38%	31%

Participated in a social service activity in your *local community* that had *interfaith* participation?

Yes.....	24%	27%	42%	42%
No.....	76%	73%	58%	58%

Participated in an intentionally *interfaith* demonstration, march, protest, or political forum?

Yes.....	2%	3%	14%	14%
No.....	98%	97%	86%	86%

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	Members	Ruling Elders	Pastors	Specialized Ministers
Q6. Within the past <i>two years</i> , have you: (Please mark either “yes” or “no” for <i>each</i> item.)				
[cont.] Volunteered for or donated money to an <i>interfaith</i> organization?				
Yes	15%	18%	26%	34%
No.....	85%	82%	74%	66%
Q7. Within the past <i>two years</i> , have you <u>invited at least one person</u> to attend at least one <i>interfaith</i> event?				
Yes	9%	11%	41%	31%
No ———> <i>Skip to Q8</i>	91%	89%	59%	69%
Q7a. <i>If yes</i> , was the event (or were any of these events): (Please mark either “yes” or “no” for <i>each</i> item.)				
An educational event or class about one or more <i>other faith traditions</i> ?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	40%	48%	58%	61%
No.....	60%	52%	42%	39%
An <i>interfaith</i> fellowship event (such as a social dinner)?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	56%	56%	50%	51%
No.....	44%	44%	50%	49%
An <i>interfaith</i> worship event, prayer service, or vigil?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	44%	39%	61%	66%
No.....	56%	61%	39%	34%
A meeting of an <i>interfaith</i> organization?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	21%	34%	41%	44%
No.....	79%	66%	59%	56%
An event with a speaker or speakers from one or more <i>other faith traditions</i> ?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	64%	61%	62%	75%
No.....	36%	39%	38%	25%
A social service activity in your community that had <i>interfaith</i> participation?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	44%	46%	41%	41%
No.....	56%	54%	59%	59%
An intentionally <i>interfaith</i> demonstration, march, protest, or political forum?				
	n=26	n=60	n=184	n=59
Yes	8%	8%	18%	24%
No.....	92%	92%	82%	76%

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Q8. Within the past *two years*, have you encountered any obstacles to your own *interfaith relations* in your *local community*?

Yes	9%	8%	16%	20%
No ———▶ <i>Skip to Q9</i>	91%	92%	84%	80%

Q8a. *If yes*, do any of the following describe the obstacle(s) you have encountered during this time? (*Please mark either “yes” or “no” for each item.*)

Because of location, there are few (or no) groups of *other faith traditions* nearby

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
Yes	59%	65%	50%	14%
No.....	41%	35%	50%	86%

Concerns that learning about *other faith traditions* might have a negative influence on your beliefs

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
Yes	16%	13%	11%	14%
No.....	84%	87%	89%	86%

Disagreement in your congregation, family, or circle of friends about whether *interfaith relations* are worth their time and effort

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
Yes	32%	31%	46%	42%
No.....	68%	69%	54%	58%

Lack of curriculum or other materials in your congregation to use in *interfaith* programs

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
	+			+
Yes	25%	32%	22%	20%
No.....	75%	68%	78%	80%

Lack of financial resources in your congregation for developing *interfaith* programs

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
	+			+
Yes	25%	38%	25%	23%
No.....	75%	62%	75%	77%

Negative past experience(s) with member(s) of one or more *other faith traditions*

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
Yes	16%	18%	18%	31%
No.....	84%	82%	82%	69%

Not sure where to begin to build *interfaith relationships*

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
				+
Yes	64%	47%	34%	34%
No.....	36%	53%	66%	66%

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Q8a. *If yes*, do any of the following describe the obstacle(s) you have encountered during this time? (Please mark either “yes” or “no” for *each* item.)

Other (please specify): _____

	n=27	n=40	n=74	n=39
	+	+	+	+
Yes	54%	24%	50%	59%
No.....	46%	76%	50%	41%

Q9. Have each of the following issues or events *greatly shaped* your personal opinion about *other faith traditions*? (Please mark either “yes” or “no” for *each* item.)

Bible study(-ies) or Sunday school class(es) at a church

Yes	41%	51%	64%	50%
No.....	59%	49%	36%	50%

Class(es) at a seminary, college, or university that discussed world religions

Yes	21%	22%	74%	74%
No.....	79%	78%	26%	26%

Educational activity(-ies) organized by a local *interfaith* organization

Yes	10%	13%	39%	43%
No.....	90%	87%	61%	57%

Educational activity(-ies) organized by a national or international *interfaith* organization

Yes	4%	4%	22%	30%
No.....	96%	96%	78%	70%

One or more articles or news stories about, or related to, *interfaith relations*

Yes	49%	55%	68%	75%
No.....	51%	45%	32%	25%

One or more books that you read

Yes	44%	42%	77%	78%
No.....	56%	58%	23%	22%

One or more hate crimes that you observed, read about, saw on the news or social media, or experienced personally

Yes	48%	50%	55%	59%
No.....	52%	50%	45%	41%

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Q9. Have each of the following issues or events *greatly shaped* your personal opinion about *other faith traditions*?
 [cont.] (Please mark either “yes” or “no” for *each* item.)

One or more instances of racism, religious intolerance, and/or other prejudice (other than a hate crime) that you observed, read about, saw on the news or social media, or experienced personally

Yes	62%	64%	68%	71%
No.....	38%	36%	32%	29%

One or more terrorist activities (domestic and/or international)

Yes	59%	56%	51%	53%
No.....	41%	44%	49%	47%

Personal mission work experience(s)

Yes	14%	13%	41%	33%
No.....	86%	87%	59%	67%

Personal relationship with one or more persons of *other faith traditions*

Yes	44%	46%	70%	81%
No.....	56%	54%	30%	19%

Personal travel abroad (other than for mission work)

Yes	24%	26%	50%	54%
No.....	76%	74%	50%	46%

Persons from different *faith traditions* working together to address one or more social issues, such as poverty, disaster assistance, inequality, or violence

Yes	25%	29%	49%	55%
No.....	75%	71%	51%	45%

The Great Commission – Jesus’ commandment – to share the Gospel with all people

Yes	43%	48%	64%	53%
No.....	57%	52%	36%	47%

Workshop(s) or lecture(s) (other than school classes)

Yes	15%	17%	42%	49%
No.....	85%	83%	58%	51%

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Q10. Within the past *two years*, have any interfaith activities or programs resulted in any kind of conflict within your congregation?

Yes	3%	3%	4%	7%
No —→ <i>Skip to Q11</i>	80%	88%	90%	71%
I have not participated in a congregation within the past two years —→ <i>Skip to Q11</i>	4%	1%	2%	14%
Not sure —→ <i>Skip to Q11</i>	12%	8%	4%	8%

If yes, please describe:

[Tabulated separately]

Presbyterian Foundation

Q11. How would you rate your overall familiarity with the Presbyterian Foundation?

Very familiar	1%	3%	16%	14%
Familiar	13%	17%	39%	29%
Somewhat familiar	20%	28%	31%	40%
Not very familiar	31%	34%	12%	14%
Not at all familiar —→ <i>Skip to Q14</i>	35%	19%	2%	4%

Q12. In the past *three years*, which of these services from the Foundation are you aware that your congregation has used? (*Please mark all that apply.*)

	n=188	n=427	n=445	n=184
	◆	◆	◆	◆
Assistance of a ministry relations officer (regional development officer)	11%	9%	19%	9%
Planned giving resources	19%	21%	37%	21%
<i>Culture of Generosity</i> workshop	1%	4%	7%	4%
<i>Legacy of a Lifetime</i> (wills emphasis) program	9%	7%	16%	11%
The <i>Financial Health Assessment</i> tool	3%	5%	11%	9%
Other resources on the Foundation's website (besides the <i>Financial Health Assessment</i> tool)	2%	4%	10%	5%
New Covenant Funds (socially responsible mutual funds)	7%	9%	26%	8%
Investment management or trust services through New Covenant Trust Company	3%	10%	18%	6%
Online giving services	3%	7%	5%	5%
Not sure about any of these	69%	62%	36%	53%
I'm not part of a congregation —→ <i>Skip to Q14</i>	2%	1%	3%	17%

Q13. The Foundation works with congregations to build communities of generosity. In your opinion, if the Foundation ceased to exist, how much would it hurt your congregation's efforts to raise the funds it needs to carry out its mission?

	n=176	n=406	n=393	n=142
It would hurt my congregation's efforts very much	5%	3%	6%	5%
It would hurt my congregation's efforts somewhat	11%	7%	15%	15%
It would only hurt my congregation's efforts a little	8%	19%	23%	15%
It would not hurt my congregation's efforts at all	23%	30%	41%	25%
No opinion or Not sure	53%	40%	15%	40%

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Q14. Please use the space below for any additional comments on Interfaith relations and/or the Presbyterian Foundation.

[Tabulated separately]

Responses received from:

Paper	72%	55%	34%	46%
Web.....	28%	45%	66%	54%

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